Eyes on the Bay
Your link to bay health

December 2012

What Can I Do?

Recycle Old Electronics
If you get a new cell phone, computer or other electronic device, dispose of the old one in a responsible way. Most counties have facilities to collect and recycle electronic waste. Be sure to remove all personal data first! More info...

Bay Fact

From the desk of...
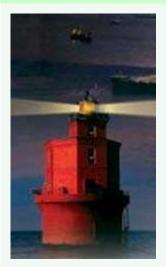## Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland

Governor O'Malley at the MEMA press conference on Hurricane Sandy.

Over the past three decades, Maryland's climate has become wetter and hotter, and water levels within the Chesapeake Bay have continued to rise. From Tropical Storms Irene and Lee in 2011, to the extreme heat in July 2011 and 2012, to the recent devastation caused by Sandy in October, the evidence is clear. This extreme weather has demonstrated just how vulnerable our natural resources and infrastructure can be to such events.

Since 2007, we have been working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, improve our energy performance, and build up our resiliency to both observed and future climate-related impacts. Through Maryland's Climate Action Plan's adaptation strategy, we've detailed necessary actions to protect our economic well-being, environmental heritage and public safety. Implementation is well underway, with projects focused on assessing the risk of private and public infrastructure and public health. On-the-ground efforts to preserve and restore natural features, such as wetlands and forested buffers that help to buffer coastal communities against the surge of floodwaters and sea level rise, are also in progress.

Climate change will affect Maryland. In addition to increased risk for drought, storms, flooding and forest fires, we are likely to see more heat-related impacts and increased erosion in coastal areas. While we are already experiencing many

of these effects, climate change raises the stakes by changing the frequency, intensity, extent and magnitude of these hazards.

Hurricane Sandy emphasized the need and importance of preparing for climate change. While we were very fortunate to be spared the brunt of the storm, science tells us that we must continue to plan and prepare for similar storms in the future.

Sincerely,

Lighthouses were once the only sure guide to keeping vessels from running aground in shallow areas of the Bay. Times have changed. Of the 74 lighthouses that once surrounded the Bay, more than 30 still stand and 23 are still in use to aid navigation. For a map and more interesting lore about lighthouses, click here.

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More news

Assateague Storm Update: 'The Island Survived ... But There Is Considerable Damage'

Governor Credits Replenishment Project For Saving OC

Turtles rescued from Assateague Island beach

Putting a price on water quality of the Chester

Eyes on the Bay Water Quality Website

New, comprehensive tidal water quality and habitat assessments are available on Eyes on the Bay for six tributary regions: The Lower Eastern Shore, Choptank River, Upper Eastern Shore, Upper Western Shore, Patapsco and Back Rivers, and Lower Western Shore. Find out the conditions in your area by clicking here. Of course, the latest information is always available online at eyesonthebay.net.

Your Government at Work

Maryland Close to Meeting Tree Planting Goal
Marylanders are close to meeting the goal of planting 100,000 trees by the end of 2012. Nearly 95,000 trees have been registered through Marylanders Plant Trees since 2011. If you or someone you know has planted a tree over the past 24 months, there is still time to register it and be counted. Read more.

DNR Offers Tips for Buying Firewood
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service answers your questions when it comes to buying firewood. How much wood is in a cord? Which species burn the longest and provide the most heat? The answers to these and other questions are all online. Please remember to use only local wood to prevent the spread of the invasive emerald ash borer.

Coastal Bays Report Card: C for 2011
The Maryland Coastal Bays Program has issued its annual report card on the health of the bays behind Ocean City and

River

'Flush fee' at work in Anne Arundel

'Frankenfish': Undercover sting lands Markham snakehead fish dealer in jail

Scientists: Carbon, nitrogen boost invasive plants

Report suggests actions to offset Potomac's pollution

EPA strengthens water quality guidelines for beaches

Quick Links

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Assateague along the Atlantic Ocean. The overall grade is C, with individual bays ranging from B- to C+. The Coastal Bays Program is a non-profit partnership between the towns of Ocean City and Berlin, the National Park Service, Worcester County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Environment and Planning. See the Report Card...

Oyster Recovery Partnership Announces New Shell Drop-off Locations

Anne Arundel County's Recycling Division has joined with the Oyster Recovery Partnership to provide three new public collection sites for the recycling of used oyster shells. New oysters prefer to attach and grow onto other oyster shells, and each recycled shell can provide homes for 10 new baby oysters. More info...

Holiday Lights on Display at Sandy Point State Park

"Lights on the Bay" at Sandy Point State Park features a scenic drive along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay with 70 spectacular, animated and stationary displays illuminating the roadway. The popular Christmas light show is sponsored by the Anne Arundel Medical Center and the cost is $14 per car. More info...

Brown Stink Bugs Entering Homes Again This Year

Invasive brown marmorated stink bugs are entering homes again this year as they seek warm locations to hide during winter weather. They don't bite, but they and their smell can be a nuisance. This year's stink bug update, with video, is provided by the University of Maryland Extension. Details...

Contact Info

Important: Please add **baystat@dnr.state.md.us** to your address book to make sure we don't get caught in your spam filter.

For comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter, please send an email to baystat@dnr.state.md.us